

Message Text

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16

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SUMMARY: THE DEATH OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI CONTINUED TO DOMINATE THE PRC MEDIA DURING THE WEEK. THE LACK OF PUBLIC APPEARANCES BY BOTH NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEADERS SUGGESTS THAT EXPECTED LEADERSHIP MEETINGS MIGHT BE UNDER WAY. THE EDUCATION DEBATE IS APPARENTLY COMING TO AN END AMIDST CONFLICTING SIGNALS. INTERNATIONALLY, THE PRC REACTED WITH SCARCELY-DISGUISED GLEE OVER REPORTS THAT THE GROMYKO VISIT TO JAPAN HAD BEEN A FAILURE. PRC MEDIA ATTACKS ON THE SOVIETS FOR BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES CONTINUED. END SUMMARY

1. INTERNAL SCENE: GETTING BACK TO NORMAL

IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF FUNERAL CEREMONIES FOR PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI (WR 2), PEKING CONTINUES TO DISPLAY ITS GRIEF IN THE SQUARE OUTSIDE THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE, WHERE WREATHS AND WHITE FLOWERS PILED UP

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AROUND THE REVOLUTIONARY MARTYRS' MONUMENT REFLECT PERSONAL TRIBUTES TO THE LATE PREMIER (PEKING 0107). THE MEDIA, HOWEVER, HAVE BEGUN TO RETURN TO NORMAL DISCUSSION OF AFFAIRS AND ARE CARRYING THROUGH WITH TRADITIONAL CALLS FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR OBSERVATIONS FOR PLA DEPENDENTS. ONCE AGAIN THE NATIONAL PRODUCTION THEMES--CONDITIONED BY THE NEW YEAR'S EDITORIAL CALLS FOR "CLASS STRUGGLE" PRIMACY AND BOOSTING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION--ARE BEING REITER-

ATED AND SOME OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDIA, ESPECIALLY YUNNAN, ARE CALLING FOR GREATER EFFORTS AS TRIBUTE TO PREMIER CHOU. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES REMAIN SCANT WITH ONLY YEH CHIEN-YING AND CHEN HSI-LIEN, WHO WERE ENTERTAINING NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARYMAN VO NGUYEN GIAP, ACTIVE AMONG THE POLITBURO MEMBERS. PROVINCIAL LEADERS WERE ALSO NOT VERY VISIBLE, LENDING FURTHER WEIGHT TO RUMORED AND EXPECTED LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

3. A NATIONAL THEATRICAL FESTIVAL, ALSO PERHAPS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS, IS IN THE OFFING, AND THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE HAS ALREADY HELD A PREPARATORY MEETING. THE CULTURAL SCENE REMAINS SOMEWHAT MURKY WITH OCCASIONAL MEDIA REFERENCES TO A "DEBATE" THERE AKIN TO THE ONE IN EDUCATION WHICH PITTED PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION POLICIES AGAINST THE NEW SYSTEM. IN CULTURE, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN SOME NEW PROGRESS WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PUBLICATION OF ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS OF POEMS, PARTICULARLY A NEW EDITION OF MAO'S POEMS TO INCLUDE THE TWO PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 1.

4. EDUCATION DEBATE RESOLVED?

PRC MEDIA PRESENTED CONFLICTING SIGNALS LAST WEEK ON THE PROGRESS OF THE EDUCATION DEBATE. A JANUARY 14 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE INDICATED THAT THE CONTROVERSY, AT LEAST AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY, WAS ALL BUT OVER (HONG KONG 0615), WHILE IN CHEKIANG, HANGCHOW UNIVERSITY GOT AROUND TO HOLDING THEIR FIRST CRITICISM MEETING JANUARY 17. A MAJOR ARTICLE BY LIANG HSIAO IN THE JANUARY 15 PEOPLE'S DAILY CONTAINED A REASONED CRITICISM OF ATTEMPTS TO RESTORE EVEN A PORTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, AND CALLED UPON THE PROLETARIAT TO SEIZE BACK THE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN EDUCATION. THE PROLETARIAT WAS DEFINED ELSEWHERE IN THE ARTICLE AS THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND SPECIFICALLY LED BY MARXISM/LENINISM/MAO TES-TUNG THOUGHT. IT CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT ONE OF THE TASKS OF EDUCATION IS TO TRAIN SCIENTISTS AND WARNED AGAINST SETTING "RED" IN OPPOSITION TO "EXPERT."

5. NCNA ON JANUARY 17 CARRIED AN ITEM WHICH ECHOED THE EARLIER TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY ARTICLE IN ITS IMPLICATION THAT THE DEBATE WAS FINISHED. IN IT, TSINGHUA'S PARTY COMMITTEE PRESENTED TEN POINTS AS GUIDELINES TO THE PROPER REVOLUTIONARY ORIENTATION IN EDUCATION. WHILE MOST WERE A REAFFIRMATION OF THE POST-CULTURAL REVOLUTION LINE, ONE SECTION NOTED THE

INDISPENSABLE ROLE OF VETERAN INTELLECTUALS AND CALLED UPON THE SCHOOL TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PERFECT THEIR SKILLS AND TO LOOK OUR FOR THEIR NEEDS. IN GENERAL, THE LEADERSHIP APPEARS DETERMINED NOT TO DISTURB THE STATUS QUO, EITHER BY JETTISONING THE INNOVATIONS OF THE LAST FEW YEARS OR BY FURTHER WEAKENING THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

6. CHOU FUNERAL LIST REVEALS NEW REHABILITATIONS, APPOINTMENTS

AMONG THOSE LISTED AS ATTENDING THE CHOU EN-LAI FUNERAL CEREMONY WERE HU CHI WEI AND AN KANG, TWO FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORS OF PEOPLE'S DAILY, WHO MADE THEIR FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE THEIR PURGE IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. THEY WERE BOTH LISTED AMONG LEADING MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY. THE LIST ALSO INDICATED THAT THREE NEW VICE MINISTERS OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN RECRUITED FROM THE PROVINCES: SUNG CHEN-MING, FORMERLY AN OFFICIAL AT TACHING, CHINA'S NUMBER ONE OILFIELD; SUN CHING-WEN, A VICE MINISTER IN THE EARLY 1960'S WHO HAS RECENTLY SERVED AS REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN IN TIENTSIN WHERE TAKANG OIL FIELD IS LOCATED; AND LI KUO-TSAI, WHOSE BACKGROUND IS IN THE KIRIN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. OTHER NEW IDENTIFICATIONS INCLUDED MEI CHIA-SHENG, A FORMER DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE EAST CHINA FLEET WHO NOW APPEARS TO BE NAVY DEPUTY COMMANDER, AND PROBABLY TWO NEW AIR FORCE DEPUTY COMMANDERS: WU FU-SHAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM CANTON, AND HO TING-YI, A FORMER AIR FORCE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF PURGED IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. UNCLASSIFIED

7. IN MOURNING FOR CHOU EN-LAI

PRC MEDIA COVERAGE OF MOURNING FOR CHOU EN-LAI CONTINUED DURING THE WEEK WITH REPRINTS AND ROUNDUPS OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, CONDOLENCE MESSAGES AND WREATHS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN LEADERS AS WELL AS CALLS BY VARIOUS HEADS OF STATE, GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS, AND PARTY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE PRC MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD. IN MOSCOW, KIRILL MAZUROV, FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WAS THE RANKING SOVIET OFFICIAL TO CALL AT THE PRC EMBASSY. IN NEW DELHI, MRS GANDHI CALLED PERSONALLY AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY TO PAY HER RESPECTS. NCNA ALSO REPORTED THE TRIBUTE TO CHOU AT THE UN AS WELL AS CONDOLENCE CALLS AT PRCLO BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND OTHER USG OFFICIALS (NCNA, JANUARY 15-21). UNCLASSIFIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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COMUSTDC

CDR USACC TAIWAN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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8. GROMYKO'S VISIT TO JAPAN

THE OUTCOME OF SOVIET FROMMIN GROMYKO'S JAPAN VISIT INADVERTENTLY SEEMS TO HAVE MOVED CHINA CLOSER TO ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS GOAL OF A SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WHICH INCLUDES AN ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE. IT ALSO REVEALED THAT PEKING HAS FAR OUTSTRIPPED MOSCOW IN EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH TOKYO. PRC MEDIA'S FRIST REACTION TO THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT WAS AN NCNA COMMENTARY DRAWN LARGELY FROM JAPANESE PRESS CRITICAL OF GROMYKO'S REFUSAL TO RETURN THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES AND HIS UNSUCCESSFUL BID TO GAIN JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR THE SOVIET'S ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM. THE COMMENTARY CONTENDED THAT THE SOVIET SCHEMES ARE DIRECTED AGAINST US AS PART OF MOSCOW'S ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE US INFLUENCE IN AISA AND CONTEND WITH THE US FOR WORLD HEGEMONY. A SUBSEQUENT NCNA REPORT NOTED JAPANESE FONMIN MIKI'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS WHICH REJECTED SOVIET EFFOTS TO BYPASS THE CONTENIOUS TERRITORIAL ISSUE AND WORK TOWARD CONCLUSION OF A FRIENDSHIP TREATY (NCNA JANUARY 16 AND 19).
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9. THE OAU AND ANGOLA

UNHAPPY WITH THE OAU SUMMIT'S FAILURE TO CONDEMN SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, A PRC MEDIA COMMENTARY CHARGED THE SOVIETS WITH "SINISTER DESIGNS" TO SPLIT THE OAU AND SHATTER AFRICAN UNITY. NCNC COVERAGE OF THE OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS ABABA FOCUSED ON STATMENTS BY VARIOUS AFRICAN LEADERS CALLING FOR WITHDRAWL OF BOTH SOUTH AFRICAN AND CUBAN TROOPS AND AN END TO SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA. AFTER CITING FOREGIN NEWS AGENCY REPORTS OF THE ARRIVAL OF SOME 500 MORE SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN LUANDAN NCNA CONTENDED THAT PRAVDA "CLAMOURS" OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR AN END TO FOREIGN ARMED INTERVENTION ARE MERELY ATTEMPTS TO HOODWINK AFRICA (NCNA JANUARY 14-20) UNCLASSIFIED
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10. SOVIET UNION

IN ADDITION TO ATTACKS ON THE GROMYKO VISIT TO JAPAN AND SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA (SEE PARAS 8 AND 9) THE PRC MEDIA DURING THE WEEK CARRIED A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER ANTI-SOVIET ARTICLES. THE SOVEITS WERE CONDEMNED BOTH FOR THEIR DISASTROUS AGRICULTURAL POLICIES WHICH HAVE LED TO A LACK OF BREAD IN FOODSTORES AND FOR THE REVIVAL OF "RELIGIOUS SUPERSTITION." ON THE EXTERNAL SIDE, THE PRC MEDA, WHICH HAS IGNORED THE DIFFICULTIES CIA HAS BEEN FACING, REPORTED THAT 40-50 SOVEIT AGENTS HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM FRANCE DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS. A LONG NCNA COMMENTARY REITERATED PAST PRC CHARGES AGAINST THE SOVIET POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS INTRUSION INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN. ANOTHER REPORT CONDEMNED BOTH SUPERPOWERS FOR SENDING WARSHIPS THROUGH

TURKISH STAIRS BUT, AS USUAL, THE SOVIETS BORE THE BRUNT OF THE ATTACK. THUS, THE RETURN OF THE SOVIET HELICOPTER CREW REMAINS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS WITH NO INDICATION OF ANY PRC LET-UP IN THE ANTI-SOVIET POLEMIC AND, AS YET, NO SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE PRC GESTURE (NCNA, JANUARY 15-20) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

11. VIETNAM

GENERAL NGUYEN GIAP IS IN PEKING ON HIS RETURN TO HANOI FROM A VISIT TO CUBA, ALGERIA, AND THE USSR AND IS BEING HOSTED BY HIS CHINESE MILITARY COUNTERPARTS, NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTER YEH CHIN-YING AND VICE PREMIER CHEN SHI-LIEN, BOTH POLITBURO MEMBERS. GIAP IS THE FIRST RANKING VIETNAMESE TO VISIT CHINA SINCE THE SEPTEMBER 1975, LE DUAN VISIT. CONVERSATIONS WITH YEH AND CHEN WERE DESCRIBED AS "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY", OMITTING THE "FRATERNAL" WHICH HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN CHARACTERIZING THE EARLIER LE DUAN TALKS (NCNA JANUARY 18-19) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

12. MALAYSIA

IN THE MIDST OF THEIR OWN MOURNING FOR CHOU EN-LAI, THE PRC LEADERSHIP PAID CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE DEATH OF MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER RAZAK. NPC CHAIRMAN (AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOMINAL CHIEF OF STATE) CHU TEH SENT A CONDOLENCE MESSAGE IN WHICH HE PAID TRIBUTE TO RAZAK'S EFFORTS WHICH RESULTED IN NORMALIZATION OF SINO-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS, VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN, NPC VICE CHAIRMAN NGAPO NGAWANG-JIGME, FONGMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND OTHER PRC LEADERS PERSONALLY CALLED AT THE MALAYSIAN EMBASSY AT PEKING (NCNA JANUARY 15-16) UNCLASSIFIED

13. DIPLOMATIC MOVES

ACCORDING TO THE HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO, THE FIRST PRC AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND, CHAI TSE-MIN, DEPARTED PEKING FOR BANGKOK JANUARY 19. CHAI IS A FORMER AMBASSADOR TO HUNGARY (1961-64), GUINEA (1965-66) AND EGYPT (1970-74). UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, HE SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. NCNA REPORTED THE DEPARTURE JANUARY 17 FOR DACCA OF THE FIRST PRC CHARGE TO BANGLADESH, MON PING. THE ONLY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON MOU IS THAT HE SERVED AS CHARGE AND COUNSELLOR IN UGANDA FROM AT LEAST 1969 TO 1972. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GETSINGER

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